

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to be executed as part of a process for
creating an executable configuration program that comprises
5 multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein
associated with each of the steps are user-selectable
options, the method comprising:

10 creating a rule that during execution of the
configuration program determines which of the user-selectable
options for a step are displayed when a specified user-
selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

15 binding the rule to the specified selectable option
so that during execution of the configuration program the rule
is executed when the specified user-selectable option is
selected.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the binding of the
rule to the specified user-selectable option is performed by
virtue of a designer selecting a user-selectable option for
20 which to create the rule.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating a textual explanation of the step that
describes available user-selectable options for the step; and

binding the textual explanation to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

5 4. The method of claim 3 wherein creating the textual explanation comprises translating the textual explanation into at least one different language.

10 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising evaluating the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

15 6. A system comprising:
 a computer network;
 a service delivery device coupled to the network, the service delivery device including a processor and memory storing instructions that, in response to receiving a first type of request for access to a service, cause the
20 processor to:

 create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

create a rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

5 bind the rule to the specified selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected.

10 7. The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to bind the rule to the specified user-selectable option by providing an ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

15 8. The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to:

create a textual explanation of the step that
20 describes available user-selectable options for the step; and
bind the textual explanation to the step so that
during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to translate the textual explanation into at least one different language.

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10. The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to evaluate the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

11. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing machine-readable instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to:

15 create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

20 create a rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

bind the rule to the specified selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is

executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected.

12. The article of claim 11 including instructions that,
5 when applied to the machine, cause the machine to bind the rule to the specified user-selectable option by providing an ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

10 13. The article of claim 11 including instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to:

create a textual explanation of the step that describes available user-selectable options for the step; and bind the textual explanation to the step so that
15 during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

14. The article of claim 13 including instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to translate
20 the textual explanation into at least one different language.

15. The article of claim 13 including instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to evaluate the stability of a configured software application by executing

the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.